

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A method for displaying the status of tasks, comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 displaying in a progress control bar a progress bar and  
4 a first action button;

5 said progress bar visually representing progress of a  
6 primary background operation; and

7 said action button selectable by a user for initiating  
8 an action with respect to said primary background  
9 operation.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2 displaying said progress control bar in a status bar.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of  
2 overwriting said progress bar with a caption describing said

3 primary background operation.

1 4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step  
2 responsive to user selection of said action button of  
3 halting said primary background operation.

1 5. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:  
2 executing at least one secondary background operation;  
3 displaying a second action button in said progress  
4 control bar;  
5 responsive to user selection of said second action  
6 button, displaying a drop list of second progress  
7 control bars, with one second progress control bar for  
8 each said secondary background operation.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step  
2 responsive to a subsequent user selection of said second  
3 action button of collapsing said drop list.

1 7. The method of claim 5, each said second progress  
2 control bar including for a corresponding secondary  
3 background operation an action button and a caption

4       overwriting a progress bar.

1       8.    The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

2           responsive to said primary operation completing or  
3           being canceled, replacing said progress control bar in  
4           said status bar for said primary operation with a  
5           progress control bar for a secondary operation.

1       9.    A method for displaying the status of a plurality of  
2           threaded tasks operating in the background, comprising the  
3           steps of:

4           displaying in a status bar a progress control bar a  
5           progress bar and a first action button;

6           said progress bar visually representing progress of a  
7           primary background operation;

8           said action button selectable by a user for initiating  
9           an cancel action with respect to said primary  
10          background operation.

11          overwriting said progress bar with a caption describing  
12          said primary background operation;

13           executing at least one secondary background operation;

14           displaying a second action button in said progress  
15           control bar;

16           responsive to user selection of said second action  
17           button, displaying a drop list of second progress  
18           control bars, with one second progress control bar for  
19           each said secondary background operation and including  
20           a third cancel action button and a corresponding  
21           caption overwriting a corresponding progress bar;

22           responsive to a subsequent user selection of said  
23           second action button, collapsing said drop list; and

24           responsive to said primary operation completing or  
25           being canceled, replacing said progress control bar in  
26           said status bar for said primary operation with a  
27           progress control bar for a secondary operation.

1       10. System for displaying the status of tasks operating in  
2       the background, comprising:

3           a status bar;

4 a progress control bar in said status bar including a  
5 progress bar and a first action button;

6 said progress bar visually representing progress of a  
7 primary background operation; and

8 said action button selectable by a user for initiating  
9 an action with respect to said primary background  
10 operation.

1 11. The system of claim 10, said progress control bar  
2 further comprising a caption overwriting said progress bar  
3 for describing said primary background operation.

1 12. The system of claim 10, said action button being  
2 responsive to user selection for halting said primary  
3 background operation.

1 13. The system of claim 12, further comprising a second  
2 button in said progress control bar responsive to user  
3 selection for alternately displaying and collapsing a drop  
4 list of second progress control bars, with one second  
5 progress control bar for each of one or more secondary  
6 background operations.

1 14. The system of claim 13, each said second progress  
2 control bar including for a corresponding secondary  
3 background operation an action button and a caption  
4 overwriting a progress bar.

1 15. A program storage device readable by a machine,  
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a  
3 machine to perform method steps for displaying the status of  
4 tasks, said method steps comprising:

5 displaying in a progress control bar a progress bar and  
6 a first action button;

7 said progress bar visually representing progress of a  
8 primary background operation; and

9 said action button selectable by a user for initiating  
10 an action with respect to said primary background  
11 operation.

1 16. The program storage device of claim 15, said method  
2 steps further comprising displaying said progress control  
3 bar in a status bar and overwriting said progress bar with a  
4 caption describing said primary background operation.

1 17. The program storage device of claim 16, said method  
2 steps further comprising the step responsive to user  
3 selection of said action button of halting said primary  
4 background operation.

1 18. The program storage device of claim 16, said method  
2 steps further comprising the steps of:

3       executing at least one secondary background operation;

4       displaying a second action button in said progress  
5       control bar;

6       responsive to user selection of said second action  
7       button, displaying a drop list of second progress  
8       control bars, with one second progress control bar for  
9       each said secondary background operation.

1 19. The program storage device of claim 18, said method  
2 steps further comprising the step responsive to a subsequent  
3 user selection of said second action button of collapsing  
4 said drop list.

1 20. The program storage device of claim 18, each said  
2 second progress control bar including for a corresponding

secondary background operation an action button and a caption overwriting a progress bar.

21. The program storage device of claim 19, said method steps further comprising the steps of:

responsive to said primary operation completing or being canceled, replacing said progress control bar in said status bar for said primary operation with a progress control bar for a secondary operation.

22. A computer program product or computer program element for displaying the status of tasks according to method steps comprising:

displaying in a progress control bar a progress bar and a first action button;

said progress bar visually representing progress of a primary background operation; and

said action button selectable by a user for initiating an action with respect to said primary background operation.



1 23. A system for displaying the status of a plurality of  
2 threaded tasks operating in the background, comprising a  
3 status bar; a progress control bar in the status bar for a  
4 primary task operating in the background and including a  
5 progress bar and first and second action buttons; the  
6 progress bar visually representing progress of a primary  
7 background operation; said first action button being  
8 selectable by a user for initiating an action with respect  
9 to said primary background operation and said second action  
10 button being selectable by a user for alternately displaying  
11 and canceling a drop list of secondary progress control bars  
12 for secondary tasks also operating in the background.